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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /139 W
---------- 116534
R 181119Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3259
USINT CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8460

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UR EG
SUBJECT: SOVIET-EGYPTIAN DIFFERENCES

REF: MOSCOW 8487

1. FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY LEBANESE WHO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED MOSCOW AT INVITATION SOVIET-LEBANESE FRIENDSHIP ASS'N, AND OTHER LEBANESE WHO HEARD KIRILIENKO TALKS WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES, JOURNALISTS, ETC., USSR IS TAKING A VERY HARD LINE WITH ARAB CRITICS OF ITS IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND OF ITS ALLEGEDLY IGNORING ARAB CAUSE IN ORDER TO PLEASE US. SAME LINE HAS BEEN TAKEN (AS REPORTED) BY PRO-COMMUNIST PAPERS HERE, SOME OF WHICH LATER QUOTED FROM MOSCOW (E.G., FBIS L160625Z). SOV OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY VERY BLUNT AND EVEN ANGRY IN AFFIRMING CORRECTNESS THEIR POSITION AND UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF ARABS WHO WANT USSR TO RUN RISK OF CONFRONTATION WITH US IN ORDER DO FOR ARABS WHAT THEY UNABLE AND/OR UNWILLING DO FOR THEM-
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SELVES. SOVS REPORTEDLY COME DOWN HARD AGAINST TALK

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OF MILITARY ACTION AT THIS TIME, STRESSING THAT TIME IS ON ARAB SIDE IF THEY CAN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES, OVERCOME DIFFERENCES WHICH WEAKEN THEM, AND PREPARE FOR LONG-TERM STRUGGLE.

2. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES HERE BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH THEY ADMIT THEY HAVE NO FIRST-HAND REPORTS, THAT SOVS GAVE HAFEZ ISMAEL VERY STERN WARNING ABOUT CRITICISMS OF USSR IN EGYPTIAN PRESS AND IN REMARKS BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. THEY BELIEVE THAT SADAT HAD INTENDED TAKE SOVS TO TASK IN HIS SPEECH THIS WEEK BUT CHANGED MIND AFTER REPORT FROM HAFEZ ISMAEL ON SOV ATTITUDE.
BUFFUM

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